

June 8, 2004

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on June 8, 2004, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Lieu, Mauno, McIntyre, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky and Mayor Walker.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers and other staff representatives.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Walker reported that "subsequent to the posting of the City Council agenda, the Public Works Department was contacted by Engineered Plumbing, the contractor who is working on the water main replacement project. The contractor asked to modify the specifications due to previously unknown conditions regarding soft subgrade soils at two locations. Mayor Walker asserted that it was necessary for the Council to take immediate action in order to complete the project.

The City Manager asked that the City Council add item 11c. to the agenda for consideration and approval.

In order to take action on an item that is not on the agenda, the California Government Code requires a determination by a two-thirds vote of the Council that immediate action is necessary and that the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda."

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to add item 11c. to the agenda. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Mayor Walker stated that the City Council would consider the item as part of the public session agenda pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2).

The Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under 17.a) Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6.

The City Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by former Mayor Dee Hardison.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Witkowsky.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

City Manager Jackson noted that item 7f had been removed from the agenda and would return next week due to a change in the contractor name.

City Clerk Herbers indicated that the minutes of March 23, 2003 had been withdrawn from item 7a and would be brought forward next week.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Nowatka announced the 24th Annual Fourth of July celebration at Wilson Park beginning at 11:00 a.m. with fireworks at 9:00 p.m. He noted that on-site parking would be available for \$5.00 and free shuttle buses would be operating between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. from both the Civic Center and Del Amo Fashion Center to Wilson Park.

City Clerk Herbers indicated that applications for open positions on the Library and Water Commissions are due by June 15 and are available online at www.tornet.com or at the City Clerk's office. Appointments will be made at the City Council meeting of June 22.

She also invited the public to visit the City Clerk's office to view the works of Torrance Artist Guild member Penelope Kastagir and she encouraged everyone to attend an art exhibit at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on display from June 7 through July 30 entitled Expressions of the Human Spirit.

Police Chief Besse invited the public to attend the Police Open House at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 12th in front of the police station.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2004, APRIL 6, 2004, APRIL 13, 2004, APRIL 20, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2004

Recommendation

Approval of minutes of ~~March 23, 2004~~, April 6, 2004, April 13, 2004, April 20, 2004, and April 27, 2004.

7b. RECOGNITION AND ATTORNMENT AGREEMENT RE LA CAZE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Land Management Team** that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a Recognition and Attornment

Agreement by and among the City Of Torrance, a municipal corporation, Torrance Towne Center Associates, a California limited liability company, in care of La Caze Development Company, a sole proprietorship, [successor in interest to "Original Lessee" and hereinafter called "Lessee"], and Kohl's Department Stores, Inc., a Delaware corporation, (hereinafter called "Sublessee").

7c. AMENDMENT RE TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER FOUNDATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council approve an amendment of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation agreement to extend the agreement for a period commencing July 1, 2004 and expiring June 30, 2005, in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

7d. RENEWAL CONTRACT RE GRAFFITI PROTECTIVE COATINGS, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize a renewal of contract with Graffiti Protective Coatings, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 for graffiti removal services in the City of Torrance at a cost not to exceed \$220,000.

7e. PURCHASE ORDER RE JUST REWARDS AND VANPOOL PROGRAM APPROPRIATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Human Resources Director** that City Council:

- 1) Award a \$70,000 purchase order to Just Rewards for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005; and
- 2) Approve a \$50,000 appropriation of vanpool fare box revenue to the City's Vanpool Program.

7f. AGREEMENT RE AVIATION GYMNASTICS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Parks and Recreation Director** that City Council approve an agreement with Aviation Gymnastics to provide fee offset gymnastics classes at the Wilson Park Sports Center, in an amount not-to-exceed \$ 46,816.

Item withdrawn by City Manager.

7g. AMENDMENT TO EZ TRANSIT PASS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Transit Director** that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to an amendment to the EZ Transit Pass Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

7h. PURCHASE ORDERS RE OFFICE BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Finance Director** that City Council award purchase orders in an amount not to exceed \$199,500 to Office Depot Business Services Division for the purchase of the City's annual requirement of office supply items. The term of these purchase orders will be July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

7i. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council make appointments from its membership to the following Council Committees and Boards:

- City Council Standing Committee Chairs and Members
- City Council Appointments to outside Regional Boards and Agencies
- City Council Ad Hoc Committees
- City Council Liaisons

Considered separately at the request of Councilmember Nowatka.

7j. PUBLIC WORKS AGREEMENT RE S.H.E. CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve the plans and specifications for the construction of Median Island Improvements for the Beautification of Hawthorne Boulevard from Pacific Coast Highway to Sepulveda Boulevard (B2004-08);
- 2) Award a public works agreement to S. H. E. Construction Group in the amount of \$657,942.50 and authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$32,897.13 for the project; and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement.

7k. ACCELA, INC. EXPENDITURE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Information Technology Director** that City Council approve an expenditure of \$32,623.30 for one year of Permit Plan/Business License software maintenance and support from Accela, Inc. (formerly known as Tidemark, Inc.).

7l. PURCHASE ORDER RE L.N. CURTIS & SONS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Fire Chief** that City Council:

- 1) Accept and appropriate FEMA's FY03 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$54,236, which is the federal share (70%) of the approved project cost of \$77,479. These funds will be used to purchase two Zumro emergency decontamination shelters (FEAP #477). The equipment will be available to all five cities of Area G Mutual Aid; and
- 2) Authorize a purchase order be issued to L.N. Curtis and Sons, Oakland, CA, in the amount not to exceed \$77,479 for the sole source purchase of two Zumro emergency decontamination shelters. L.N. Curtis and Sons is the only authorized Zumro distributor for the State of California.

7m. MAINTENANCE CONTRACT RE BENSTEAD PLUNGE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** and the **Parks and Recreation Director** that City Council award a contract for maintenance of the Benstead Plunge for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year to Sea-Clear Pools of Torrance for \$31,500.

7n. 2002 COPS FUND ALLOCATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police** that City Council appropriate and allocate any interest from the 2002 COPS grants to fund continued operations of the programs approved for this grant.

7o. MICROSOFT STATE AND LOCAL ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT RE DELL, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Information Technology** Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize an amendment to the Microsoft State and Local Enterprise Agreement (C2002-114) and select Dell, Inc. as the new reseller for an annual expenditure of \$168,677. The amendment will be for a five-year term and will reduce per computer software licensing costs from \$212.39 to \$151.01. The contract is for the purchase of Microsoft Desktop software licensing; and
- 2) Appropriate \$147,838 from the City and Police Department's PC Replacement Funds to cover a portion of the initial year's payment with the remaining \$20,839 allocated from the Workforce Investment Network's (WIN) operating budget. The initial payment will cover the period of June 19, 2004, through June 19, 2005.

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to approve items 7a (except the minutes of March 23, 2004) through 7e, 7g and 7h, and 7j through 7o as written. Councilmember Witkowski seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7i APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council make appointments from its membership to the following Council Committees and Boards:

- City Council Standing Committee Chairs and Members
- City Council Appointments to outside Regional Boards and Agencies
- City Council Ad Hoc Committees
- City Council Liaisons

Councilmember Nowatka questioned the proper procedures and format for appointing ad hoc committees, noting that several drastic changes had been made in committee assignments which affected him personally. He acknowledged that the process was by appointment of the mayor but expressed concern that in the past he had always been consulted and been given the opportunity to provide input and that was not the case this time. He indicated that not only had he not been consulted, he questioned the propriety of doing it that way and noting that he had found out about the changes after the fact.

In response to a report from Councilmember Nowatka about correspondence from the South Bay Council of Governments (SBCOG) indicating that their appointments are made by council resolution, City Manager Jackson noted that ad hoc appointments were usually made by the mayor and changes to formal standing committees go by seniority and reverse seniority.

Councilmember Nowatka observed that there were no changes in standing committees and commented that he was not aware whether his colleagues had been contacted but he had not been. He expressed no objections to the standing committees, but pointed out that he had dedicated the past few years to certain organizations and that the proposed changes would affect his involvement in the community in several ways. He stated that if the appointments were in the purview of the mayor he could only object.

City Attorney Fellows observed that the ad hoc committees were not a part of a written process and he noted that section 9.3 of the council rules for appointment notes that committees can be formed at the mayor's pleasure and he can designate the chair unless otherwise ordered by the council. He pointed out that the current agenda item tracked what was done two years ago which was the last time council appointments were made and noted that the mayor announces and then the council concurs.

Councilmember Nowatka asserted that the item should not go forward if proper procedures were not followed.

City Attorney Fellows reported the SBCOG was the only agency he was aware of that required appointments be designated by a resolution of the governing body and he indicated that a letter sent to the SBCOG would substantially comply with the requirement, but if the Council wanted a resolution he would draft one.

Mayor Walker stated that all six council members should have an equal opportunity to participate in all of the various committees. He indicated that they were looking to hold an office with the SBCOG. Councilmember Nowatka agreed with Mayor Walker that alternates were not able to serve as officers, only the voting delegate – Mayor Walker, has that opportunity.

Mayor Walker reported that he had removed Councilmember Witkowsky from being the Sister Cities and Rose Float liaison to give others a chance and he added that nothing was a lifetime commitment, especially when dealing with council term limits.

City Council Standing Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Community Planning & Design	Witkowsky	Mauno, Nowatka
Public Safety	Lieu	Nowatka, Scotto
Transportation	Mauno	Lieu, Witkowsky
Citizen Development and Enrichment	Nowatka	McIntyre, Scotto
Finance and Governmental Operations	Scotto	McIntyre, Witkowsky
Employee Relations	McIntyre	Lieu, Mauno

City Council Ad Hoc Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Legislative	Nowatka	Lieu, Witkowsky
Rose Float	McIntyre	Mauno, Nowatka

Armed Forces Day	Scotto	Lieu, Mauno
------------------	--------	-------------

City Council Liaisons

COMMITTEE	LIAISON	ALTERNATE
Sister City Association	McIntyre	Lieu
Youth Task Force	Mauno	McIntyre
Art in Public Places	Witkowski	Scotto

City Council Appointments to Outside Regional Boards and Agencies

COMMITTEE	VOTING DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
So. California Association of Governments (SCAG)*	Walker	Mauno
South Bay Cities Council of Governments* (SBCCOG)	Walker	Witkowski
Sanitation District of Los Angeles County*	Walker	Nowatka
South Bay Economic Development Partnership	Walker	Nowatka
Municipal Area Express (MAX)*	Scotto	Mauno
Workforce Investment Network (W/N) Policy Board	Nowatka	McIntyre
League of CA Cities – L.A. Division	Witkowski	Lieu
LA County West Vector Control District*	Mauno	Lieu

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowski moved to approve item 7i. Councilmember Mauno seconded the motion and carried with the roll call vote with Councilmember Nowatka voting no.

9. **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

9a. **RESOLUTION NO. 2004-68 RE OPPOSITION OF SB 744**

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council adopt a **Resolution** and direct staff to work with other South Bay cities to oppose SB 744. This bill, if passed, would allow an applicant of a housing project whose application is either denied or approved with conditions that he/she disagrees with to appeal the local government's decision to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for reconsideration.

Community Development Director Gibson commented that SB 744 was an imposition on local control.

Councilmember Lieu urged the public to oppose SB 744 noting that the senate bill sought to take local land use decisions away from local governments and give that power to five unelected appointees in Sacramento. The bill would give those appointees the power to overturn decisions of the City Council and the Planning Commission.

Mayor Walker asserted that SB 744 was potentially damaging and noted that if the bill passed the City Council and Planning Commission might as well be eliminated.

Liz Fobes, a member of Citizens for Local Control, thanked the Council for their opposition.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to oppose SB 744 (Dunn/Ducheny). Councilmember Witkowski seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-68

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING SB 744 (DUNN/DUCHENY) – HOUSING.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-68. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

10. PUBLIC SAFETY

10a. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-69 RE JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police** that City Council adopt a **Resolution** releasing the City's allocation of the FY04-05 Juvenile Accountability and Incentive Block Grant Funds, in the amount of \$31,029, to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to accept the staff recommendation. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-69

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE RELEASING OUR ALLOCATION OF JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO THE LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-69. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. CONTINUED STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR CAROLWOOD LANE AND SINGINGWOOD DRIVE

Recommendation of the City Manager and the City Attorney that City Council continue the state of local emergency, proclaimed March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Lane and Singingwood Drive.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to continue the state of local emergency for Carolwood Lane and Singingwood Drive. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11b. RESOLUTION 2004-70 RE TWO YEARS ADDITIONAL SERVICE CREDIT RE PERS SYSTEM

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a **Resolution** granting a designated period for two years additional service credit under the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).

Assistant to the City Manager Keane indicated that this was the second action required to open the window for the two year service credit.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to accept the staff recommendation. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-70

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO GRANT ANOTHER DESIGNATED PERIOD FOR TWO YEARS ADDITIONAL SERVICE CREDIT RELATED TO THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-70. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11c. PUBLIC WORKS AGREEMENT C2003-201 AMENDMENT RE ENGINEERED PLUMBING, INC.

The Acting Public Works Director recommends that the City Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to Public Works Agreement C2003-201 with Engineered Plumbing, Inc. to modify warranty provisions related to alley construction; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest to said amendment.

Mr. Isomoto reported that staff had been made aware of a problem in the contract on Monday, June 6 and concurs with the recommendation to minimize impacts on residents. An amendment is needed to relieve the contractor from some liability as damage can occur based on local conditions and it is more economical to do repair work rather than redesign.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to accept the staff recommendation. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

12a. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-71 RE CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council:

- 1) Hold the public hearing on the proposed levy of assessments within the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1 for Fiscal Year 2004-2005; and,
- 2) Adopt a **Resolution** confirming the diagram and assessment for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 and ordering the improvements in connection with the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1.

Mayor Walker opened the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

No speakers came forward.

MOTION: At 7:28 p.m. Councilmember Witkowsky moved to close the public hearing. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to accept the staff recommendation. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-71

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CONFIRMING A DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ACT OF 1972, PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF THE CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, AND AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE X111 D OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-71. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

*

The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met from 7:29 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

*

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16a. Mayor Walker made the following statement:

"I am going to start the orals myself this evening. Let me start by saying that we live in a great city. We have a City Council that is second to none in their concern for the well being of this community and the methods by which we do the city's business.

Prior to the Daily Breeze story about the Mills Company applying for a permit to build 900 condos at Del Amo Fashion Center, I had a meeting with the Mills Company management in my office at City Hall. At that meeting I told the Mills Company not to make the application. I told them not once, not twice, but a half a dozen times. Don't make the application. It was a message I had given before with our City Manager LeRoy Jackson present. I understood, the City Manager understood, but the Mills Company didn't get it. They went forward with their application anyway. Our City Attorney will tell you, that it was their right.

Neither, I nor any member of this City Council could have done more. The law does not allow us to pre-judge a project. We can't sit here, at a City Council meeting, or any other meeting and say that we oppose or support a matter which is coming before us. To do so, would cause us to forfeit our ability to vote on the matter.

In this case, some people have confused civility and due process, with support. Jumping to that conclusion is wrong. Remember I told the Mills Company not once, not twice, but a half a dozen times not to apply.

Let's back track. After purchasing the Del Amo Fashion Center the Mills Company came to the Mayor and the Council to discuss the construction of apartments. They wanted to be able to sell the entitlements to build 1,280 luxury apartments similar to those across from the Farmers Market and the Grove in Los Angeles. They asked us to go see them. I didn't bother to go.

I told the Mills Company, that other than senior housing and housing for the physically challenged, the City of Torrance had not approved any apartments in the last 30

years. I told them that this was a clue. This was followed by another conversation about apartments and the results were the same.

The next conversation was a brief one in the parking lot at City Hall when the Mills Company was either arriving or leaving with our planning staff. They asked, "How about 75% apartments and 25% ownership". I again talked about our city's history in not supporting apartment construction.

The Mills Company finally showed me some plans. They were for ownership, not apartments. They were at a much lower density, but not low enough. Unfortunately those plans did not display design concern for the street or the neighbors. Nor did it display any of the outstanding creative design that could be found in the malls remodeling plans and we don't even know who the builder is.

The Mills Company has the opportunity to do great things with our mall. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent in bringing the Del Amo Fashion Center back to the premiere shopping venue that it once was. But don't let our positive comments about that part of the picture lead anyone to the conclusion that there is any acceptance of any plan or any application for high density residential by your City Council. That is not the case.

Part of the Mayor's job is to be a cheerleader for our City. While commenting to the Daily Breeze reporter on the positives of a more than 200 million dollar remodeling plan, I didn't discuss my negative comments about the Mills Company residential application. If I had perhaps the readers would have had a different understanding of the situation.

There was a second story, about an application by Ray Watt for a gated community, on a vacant site, on Lomita Boulevard, near the Crossroads Shopping Center. In the center of the story, a paragraph suddenly appears describing what, in fact, was a very proper and legal political contribution to help retire an assembly campaign debt. Assembly campaigns in 1992 and 1996 in which I raised and spent over a million dollars. The report of the contribution was filed by me in a timely manner with the Torrance City Clerk, the County of Los Angeles, and the State of California. If one had only checked, they would have found out that a good portion of the contributions funds were ultimately donated to charity, \$5,000 to the John Wayne Cancer Institute, an institution, which is on the cutting edge on breast cancer research. A \$5,000 contribution was given to achievement rewards for college scientists, a group, which provides scholarships to gifted, needy college students, and what I am most proud of was \$7,000 given to the Rose Float Association in part to cover the costs of the Torrance Prisoner of War Veterans that I asked to ride on our rose float this year. To some of them, that ride and our community recognition was a life changing experience. Their enjoyment and the reaction to them was worth a hundred times what was donated.

Looking further, you would see that I asked for and I got Ray Watt to cleanup the oil well site in the center of the Madrona Marsh. A million dollars in value was given to us for a dollar. Then, even though I could have voted on two of his projects, I abstained from voting.

Incidentally it's my understanding that Ray Watt's Lomita Boulevard Project application will be modified to be all senior housing. If approved, it has the opportunity to be the last major senior housing development in the South Bay, by the builder of New Horizons. It is a long involved permit process. We are all concerned about the traffic it could generate, but I am also told that it will generate one sixth the traffic of any retail project.

Looking to our total city, density and traffic experts tell us that every day we have approximately 500,000 people in Torrance. Residence, business, industry, retail shopping, the act of driving to or from the beach cities or the hill to almost anywhere, requires you to drive through Torrance. This adds up to half a million people in Torrance in a 24 hour day. Most of it is peak hour traffic. Our city has experienced residential growth for the first time since the preservation and development of the Madrona Marsh in the early eighties.

Growth wasn't created by a City Council, it is created by the demand for housing, rising prices, easy financing and a person's right to use their property. Together these factors have created this growth in housing in Torrance. The growth in Torrance housing

in the last two years makes up two tenths of one percent of the five hundred thousand people that are in Torrance every day.

Our responsibility as a City Council is to do our best to solve or control our problems. To solve it or control it, within the law, in a way that gives us the increasing standards and quality of life this City Council and the community demand.

We are just about at the end of available residential construction in Torrance and remember that residential construction is just about the least intensive usage of a property. As we come to that end, the State of California is just now attempting to legislate, planning approval and control away from cities and give it to the State.

I along with others fought against the imposition of federally subsidized housing in Torrance in the eighties. This Council will fight to preserve our local control against this intrusion by the State legislature and their desire to add second units to R1 property and to have the power and to seize the power to override any rejection or modification of a residential development by local government. Our State legislature is just plain nuts.

This Council will fight to make sure that any building in Torrance is the right building in the right place for the right reason. As a city we have done a few things wrong but a lot of things right.

Now more than ever it is an honor and privilege to serve as Mayor."

16b. Councilmember Lieu indicated that he had voted against, and would continue to vote against developments in Torrance that were inappropriate and too dense and he pointed out that he and Councilmember Mauno had lobbied against SB 744. He indicated that he would keep an open mind toward the proposal for the mall, but shared the same concerns as all residents. Councilmember Lieu expressed appreciation for the letters and emails he had received and stated that he would be mindful of them when development proposals come before him.

16c. Councilmember Lieu reported that he and Councilmember Mauno had met with several decision makers in Sacramento to lobby for a grant for the North Torrance Library, and he reported that although they had lobbied against AB 2702 it did pass and now the focus is to stop it from passing in the senate.

16d. Councilmember Lieu reported attending the Torrance Firefighter Association (TFFA) luncheon where scholarships funded from the paychecks of the firefighters were awarded.

16e. Councilmember Lieu noted attendance at an adopt-a-school event at the Torrance Hilton which raised a significant amount of money for Walteria Elementary school.

16f. Councilmember Lieu expressed sadness at the death of former President Ronald Reagan.

16g. Councilmember Mauno reported lobbying in Sacramento for the North Torrance Library and Community Center.

16h. Councilmember Mauno predicted that the issue of land use in the state of California would be one of the most debated topics in the future, and solutions to housing issues would be a challenge that the Council is ready for.

- 16i.** Councilmember Mauno shared early memories of former President Ronald Reagan.
- 16j** Councilmember Mauno noted that he had been impressed by the Torrance High Junior ROTC graduation ceremonies and supported their teaching of discipline and leadership.
- 16k.** Councilmember Mauno reported learning more about the city at the City Yard Open House.
- 16l.** Councilmember Mauno thanked Raytheon for their special present to the children of Edison Elementary School.
- 16m.** Councilmember McIntyre commented on the surge of interest in industry leaders to adopt elementary schools and reported that Raytheon had donated \$10,000 to Edison Elementary school to be used as the principal and faculty felt necessary.
- 16n.** Councilmember McIntyre echoed earlier comments from Councilmember Lieu regarding development in the city, and emphasized that the council viewed development as a serious issue and recognized the limited land space. She indicated that she was always concerned about the best use of land space for the citizens of the city and has asked several homeowners associations if they would like to speak as a uniform voice in the city as developments have more than a neighborhood impact. She asserted that the more associations that can recognize their voice is important as a uniform voice, the better they will be heard. Councilmember McIntyre asked that in order to address concerns that staff conduct a city-wide traffic study and a projected population study figured for 5-10 years from now.
- 16o.** Councilmember McIntyre stated that he had enjoyed attending the City Yard Open House.
- 16p.** Councilmember McIntyre stated that she had enjoyed the Oodles of Noodles cultural event on Sunday.
- 16q.** Councilmember McIntyre requested information about an Animal Control Event on June 16.
- 16r.** Councilmember Nowatka echoed earlier comments about the death of Ronald Reagan, the TFFA scholarships and JROTC.
- 16s.** He indicated that the council is aware of housing concerns and noted that he has been deeply involved with SCAG. He reported on the recently completed State of the Region report noting that it contained a housing element and five year transportation plan. An additional study for the six counties projected six million more people in the area by 2030 and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) pushes meeting needs for those people. Councilmember Nowatka observed that the public is concerned with overdeveloping the city and he noted that all cities in the area share similar concerns as the population increases. He emphasized the importance of looking at the region as a whole rather than just looking at Torrance.
- 16t.** Councilmember Nowatka indicated that the recently defeated SB 910 would have placed a fine on every city that did not meet the RHNA and might resurface in an effort to

force more low income housing. He added that recently a legislative analyst had sent a letter to the governor to eliminate the RHNA as it is not meeting its goals or filling the needs and he acknowledged that though something needs to be done, it must be done in a balanced manner. He again indicated that he would listen carefully to the community.

16u. Councilmember Scotto commented on President Reagan's passing and that he would be missed.

16v. Councilmember Scotto expressed appreciation and support for the letters and emails he has received regarding housing issues, noting that he is not able to respond to all of them but he agrees with most of them. He stated that he felt that a master plan is needed on how to continue to develop areas of Torrance and he commented that although he did not support rezoning commercial industrial areas, the option should be examined to see if it makes sense.

What we do today affects our future and if we make mistakes today our children will pay; traffic will not go away and no money to build new streets or sewers and water mains. Take care of what we do now. Thanked all for thoughtful letters.

16w. Councilmember Witkowsky acknowledged receiving many emails regarding development in Torrance noting that the overriding theme was not to build. She cited property owners' rights when she observed for the many citizens who wanted parcels of land to be used for parks. She noted that would require the city to come up with the money to buy the land and she felt that some of the expectations were not realistic. She explained that when she makes decisions regarding developments she has to think about the fact that the property owner has a right to develop the property. She looks at each project on a case by case basis.

Councilmember Witkowsky took offense to the implication of some of the letters that she is "in the developers' pocket" and noted that the city of Torrance has ordinances and laws, and the maximum allowable campaign contribution is \$1,000. The implication is that the council is getting so much money they are going to side with the developers over what is best for the city. She stated that she supports what is best for the city because long after she is gone the city will still be here.

16x. Councilmember Witkowsky complimented First Federal for adopting the Seaside School.

16y. Mayor Walker stated that he was honored to be one of eight mayors in the United States to attend a three-day conference on architectural planning by the Federal Government's National Endowment of the Arts and would be giving further details at a later date.

16z. Former Mayor Dee Hardison, 2024 W. 236th Street, stated that she had read in the *Daily Breeze* of a probable need for further budget cuts. She noted her concern that as she understood it Torrance is the only city in the state that does not accept Federal Block Grant Funds and that she hated to leave money on the table. She acknowledged that as mayor she had been interested in re-looking at the issue but had respected the council majority and had not brought it forward.

She reported that she had learned in April 2002 that the City might be able to apply for Block Grant funds under the Los Angeles County Consolidated Plan if the County was

willing and had shared with the Council as she left so that the City would be able to contact the County for additional information.

She stated that she had recently called as citizen to clarify that the County would work with cities with populations over 50,000 such as Torrance with the representative indicating that they would be interested in working with Torrance concerning the Block Grant program.

Former Mayor Hardison explained the two options possible: 1) receive Block Grant Funds under the Los Angeles County Consolidation Plan or 2) Torrance can request that the funds be sold to another agency at a discounted price. She noted that either option would result in more money for the city and she suggested several possible uses for those funds. Former Mayor Hardison provided information to the City Manager and requested that the City Council direct staff to schedule a meeting with the County to discuss the details of options that could bring in an additional \$500,000 to \$600,000 per year.

16aa. Alan Lee, AFSCME Local 1117, expressed frustration with being excluded from the decision making process for choosing who administers employee funds and benefits, pointing out that they had been promised a voice in the process but had been politely ignored by unresponsive management.

16bb. Robert Thompson, President of the Madrona Homeowners Association, reported that the association had voted to oppose all new residential development in the city of Torrance including the 917 residential units proposed by Mills Corporation at the Del Amo Mall Site.

16cc. Casie Duvall 1962 222nd Street, expressed concerns with the impact of a proposed development on traffic and schools in the area and Mayor Walker explained that part of any development process is a review by police, fire and schools and the ability for the schools to absorb the number of students generated by the development. He assured Ms. Duvall that the city would never build anything that would negatively impact the schools.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:24 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, June 15, 2004 at 5:30 p.m., for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on August 24, 2004